



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR

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TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: Mark J. Saladino
Treasurer and Tax Collector

SUBJECT: **V-CHECK AND PROPERTY TAX COLLECTIONS UPDATE**

The December property tax collection season recently concluded, and I am pleased to report that our new "V-Check" online payment program was extremely successful. I wish to thank the Supervisors who attended our press conference to launch V-Check in October. As a result of your participation and support, the program was well-publicized in the press, radio and television media.

V-Check offers property owners a convenient, online method to pay current year property taxes without a transaction fee. It appears to be as popular as the existing credit card payment option, which is available by telephone through a third-party vendor that charges a fee to use the service.

In all, 20,249 property owners paid more than \$55 million in current year taxes through the V-Check system. This can be compared with 27,211 property owners who paid approximately \$62 million in taxes (current year as well as delinquent taxes) through the credit card payment option. As we expand the availability of V-Check to delinquent taxes, and continue our efforts to publicize this new payment option, we expect it to become far more popular than payment by credit card.

I am also pleased to report that our remote cashiering program in Lancaster (now in its fifth year) continues to serve more taxpayers in the Antelope Valley every year. As you may recall, we collect property tax payments (checks and money

orders only) at our satellite office in Lancaster during the week to ten days preceding each delinquency date. In December 2001, 589 taxpayers representing \$538,507 in collections used the service; in December 2005, 3,184 taxpayers representing more than \$3 million in collections used the service.

c: Chief Administrative Officer